

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 SPC-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 JUSE-00

SIL-01 LAB-06 AGR-20 EB-11 DRC-01 /111 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8593

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 8065

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJ: MEXICAN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA YESTERDAY ON BEING INFORMED

THAT I WAS GOING TO WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK FOR A FEW DAYS, OUTLINED AGAIN HIS VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT OF MEXICAN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO THE U.S. HE MENTIONED THAT HE HAD OF COURSE COVERED THIS TOPIC WITH THE SECRETARY RECENTLY BUT THAT HE FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN MOMENTUM ON THIS MOST UNHAPPY ISSUE. HE POINTED OUT AGAIN THAT BASICALLY THIS WAS SUBJECT OF EMBARRASSMENT TO PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AND THAT THE PRESIDENT BELIEVED HE MUST TACKLE THIS ISSUE IN SPITE OF ITS APPARENTLY INTRANSIGENT NATURE. HE ADDED THE OBVIOUS THAT NEITHER THE MEXICAN NOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT LIKED THIS PROBLEM BUT THAT UNFORTUNATELY IT WAS A FACT OF LIFE AND MUST BE FACED. HE NOTED ALSO THAT THE PROBLEM WAS GETTING WORSE AS LARGER NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WERE INVOLVED EACH YEAR.

2. RABASA POINTED OUT THAT

HE HOPED ADDITIONAL MORE FORMAL CONVERSATIONS COULD BE HELD FAIRLY SOON ON THE PROBLEM IN WASHINGTON. HE SAID HE KNEW THAT IN WASHINGTON THIS PROBLEM FELL INTO THE JURISDICTION OF MANY AGENCIES BESIDES STATE

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AND MENTIONED JUSTICE, LABOR AND INS IN THIS CONTEXT. HE

WENT OVER AGAIN HIS CONVICTION THAT IN FACT MANY ELEMENTS IN THE U.S., INCLUDING PERHAPS EVEN OUR LABOR UNIONS TO SOME EXTENT, REALIZED THE NEED FOR A NIMED NUMBER OF MEXICAN TEMPORARY LABORERS IN THE AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS ESPECIALLY IN THE SOUTHWEST. HE ADMITTED THAT THE NEED FOR MEXICAN WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING LINES FAR FROM THE BORDER WAS MORE PROBLEMATICAL.

3. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY THEN REVIEWED HIS THREE POINTS LOOKING TOWARDS AT LEAST A TEMPORARY SETTLEMENT AGAIN. THESE ARE 1) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUBSTANTIAL YEARLY QUOTA FOR TEMPORARY MEXICAN WORKERS; 2) A GUARANTEE THAT MEXICAN WORKERS FALLING IN THIS CATEGORY WILL HAVE THE SAME RIGHT AND LABOR CONDITIONS AS U.S. WORKERS ONCE THEY ARE ACCEPTED; AND 3) ACCESS BY MEXICAN WORKERS TO THEIR CONSULS IN CASE OF NEED AND THE ACCESS OF THE MEXICAN CONSULS IN TURN TO U.S. INSTITUTIONS AND AUTHORITIES SUCH AS INS AND THE COURTS TO DEFEND THEM.

4. RABASA WAS NATURALLY ANXIOUS THAT I SHOULD PURSUE THIS ISSUE IN THE U.S. WITH INVOLVED U.S. AUTHORITIES, AND I PROMISED TO DO SO TO THE EXTENT OF MY ABILITIES.

5. COMMENT: THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT ISSUE HAS REPEATEDLY BEEN SINGLED OUT AS OUR MAJOR REMAINING POLITICAL PROBLEM WITH MEXICO IN THE WAKE OF THE SETTLEMENT OF THE SALINITY MATTER (AT LEAST IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH). IT WOULD BE PROFITABLE IN OUR RELATIONS WITH MEXICO IF THE U.S. AGENCIES WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH THIS PROBLEM COULD MEET WITH A VIEW TO DRAFTING A PROPOSAL OR AT LEAST A COMMENTARY TO THE MEXICANS ON THE THREE SPECIFIC ISSUES WHICH RABASA HAS RAISED. I REALIZE THAT AS HE EXPRESSED THEM SO FAR, THERE REMAINS CONSIDERABLE VAGUENESS BUT I BELIEVE THESE POINTS COULD BE REFINED BY FURTHER QUESTIONING HIM AND BY CLOSE STUDY ON OUR PART. I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THIS BE DONE FAIRLY SOON WITH A VIEW THEN TO A FURTHER MEETING OF THE TWO SIDES IN WASHINGTON WHEN WE COULD PRESENT THE RESULTS OF OUR STUDIES. ALTHOUGH NO ONE HAS THE ILLUSION THIS

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WOULD RESULT IN A SPEEDY SOLUTION IT WOULD SHOW OUR GOOD WILL AND PROVE THAT WE WERE WORKING ON THE PROBLEM.
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